

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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R 191700Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8780

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

USUN NEW YORK 294

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3033

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PN, BR

SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL PANAMANIAN MISSION TO BRAZIL

REF: PANAMA 2155 NOTAL

1. SHORT VISIT HERE OF PANAMANIAN VICE PRESIDENT SUCRE AND FOREIGN MINISTER TACK RECEIVED SCANT PRESS PLAY (SEE BELOW). ONE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE PRIOR TO VISIT HAD SUGGESTED THAT WHILE VISITORS WOULD TRY TO LINE UP BRAZILIAN SUPPORT FOR PANAMANIAN POSITION ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, GOB WOULD BE INTERESTED STRICTLY IN DISCUSSING BILATERAL PANAMANIAN-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS.

2. SOME PAPERS APRIL 18 CARRIED BRIEF STORIES ON VISIT, WITH ONE (PROMINENT JORNAL DO BRASIL) CARRYING TEXT OF LETTER SENT BY PRESIDENT GEISEL IN RESPONSE TO ONE HE RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENTS OF VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, AND COSTA RICA. (FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF
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THAT LETTER, WHILE DATED APRIL 11, HAS JUST BEEN

RELEASED BOTH HERE AND IN PANAMA.) GEISEL LETTER SAYS ONE HE RECEIVED EXPRESSED "PROFOUND CONCERN OVER WHAT YOU CONSIDER 'OBSTACLES AND HINDRANCES'" IN THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, AND GOES ON TO STATE THAT IN ADDITION TO THE "REPEATED DEMONSTRATIONS OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT FOR THE PANAMANIAN POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW INSTRUMENT FOR THE CANAL ZONE, THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT, DURING THE MEETING OF AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN THE SECOND PHASE OF THE 'NEW DIALOGUE' IN WASHINGTON IN 1974, MADE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AWARE (FEZ SENTIR) THAT IT CONSIDERS IT OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES CONCLUDE AN UNDERSTANDING CAPABLE OF MEETING THE RECIPROCAL INTERESTS AND GENERAL CONCERNS WITH REGARD TO THE CANAL. THE POSITION OF BRAZIL REGARDING THE SUBJECT IS DEFINED VERY CLEARLY AND IN A WAY CORRESPONDING TO ITS UNSWERVING POLICY OF HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY AND RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH COUNTRY AND FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERVENTION AND SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES."

3. PRESTIGIOUS O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO RAN STORY SAME DAY REPORTING THAT IN PRESS CONFERENCE, VISITORS DECLARED INTER ALIA THAT BESIDES BRAZIL, PANAMA'S ASPIRATIONS TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANAL ARE SUPPORTED BY MEXICO, VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, AND COSA RICA, AND THAT THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM HAS BECOME "A MORAL AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT OF FORD AND KISSINGER."

4. MEMBER OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S STAFF AND OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY'S AMERICAS DEPARTMENT SEPARATELY TOLD EMBOFF THAT PRESS ACCURATELY REFLECTED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETINGS; ONE REITERATED THAT BRAZIL'S POSITION REMAINED AS REPRESENTED AT WASHINGTON MEETING. THEY BOTH SAID THAT PANAMANIANS HAD BEHAVED DISCREETLY, ABLY, AND SUBTLY IN PRESENTING THEIR CASE, STRESSING DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND REQUESTING THAT VISIT BE CARRIED OUT IN LOW KEY. ONE MINISTRY OFFICIAL NOTED VISITORS HAD REFERRED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THREE REMAINING HURDLES IN CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: REACHING AGREEMENT, HAVING AGREEMENT ACCEPTED BY PANAMANIAN PLEBISCITE, AND HAVING AGREEMENT RATIFIED BY US SENATE. SERIOUSNESS OF LAST HURDLE, OFFICIAL SAID, WAS RECOGNIZED BY PANAMANIANS.

5. BOTH OFFICIALS ASSURED EMBOFF THAT VISITORS DID NOT RPT NOT RAISE QUESTION OF PANAMA'S CANDIDACY FOR

US SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT; ONE NOTED BRAZIL HAS LONG
BEEN COMMITTED TO ARGENTINE CANDIDACY, AND WOULD ONLY
VOTE FOR OTHER CANDIDATE IF ARGENTINA WERE TO
WITHDRAW, SOMETHING WHICH ARGENTINA HAD SHOWN NO SIGN
OF INTENDING TO DO.
CRIMMINS

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